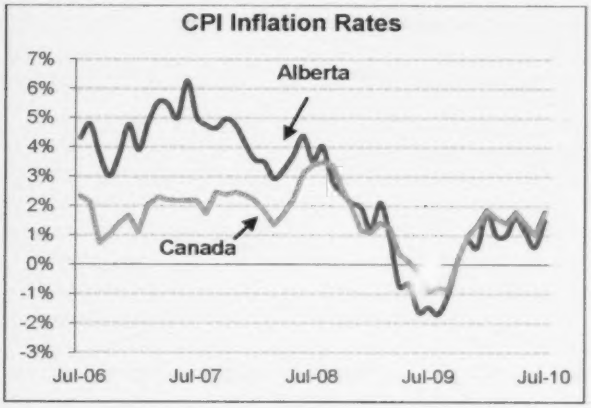
Price Indices

Consumer Price Index…

Alberta's year-over-year CPI rate increased from 0.6% in June to 1.5% in July. The increase was due largely to energy prices, which were 8.6% higher than a year earlier. Excluding energy, prices were up just 0.7% from July 2009, suggesting that inflationary pressures remain subdued in Alberta.

Nationally, inflation was 1.8% in July with increases in consumption taxes in BC, Ontario and Nova Scotia affecting consumer prices. Energy prices, which were up 7.9% from July 2009 also contributed to the increase. Excluding energy, Canadian CPI was up 1.3% from a year ago.



Non-residential and Apartment construction price indices…

After declining for more than a year, construction costs in Alberta increased during the second quarter of 2010. Compared to the second quarter of 2009, the non-residential construction price index was 0.6% higher, while the apartment construction cost index was up 0.2%..

Resale Housing Market

Sales decline, but prices increase…

Alberta's housing market continued to cool in July, as sales of existing homes declined by 1.6%, the fifth consecutive monthly decline in sales. On the supply side, the number of new listings experience a larger decline, shrinking by 8.6%. Despite these declines, the average resale price of a house in Alberta increased by 1.9% in July to $352,043 (seasonally adjusted). This was 3.1% higher than the average resale price recorded in July 2009.

Canadian Dollar (US¢/C$)	
August 20, 2010	95.24
August 13, 2010	96.14
2010-11 YTD	96.96
WTI Oil US$/bbl	
August 19, 2010	$ 74.43
August 12, 2010	$ 75.74
2010-11 YTD	$ 77.78
Nymex Natural Gas C$/MMBtu*	
Near-month Contract	
August 20, 2010	$ 4.32
August 13, 2010	$ 4.47

*Estimate based on Nymex Futures Market Price

Manufacturing Shipments

Sales pull back in June…

The value of Alberta's manufacturing shipments declined by 0.3% (seasonally adjusted) in June, completely offsetting the 0.3% growth recorded the previous month. This was only the 2nd decline in manufacturing in the last 11 months. The decline was due to lower shipments of machinery (-9.9%) and chemical products. Nationally, sales increased by 0.1% in June, the 11th increase in the past 13 months since sales reached their recession low in May 2009.

Wholesale Trade

Alberta experiences the strongest growth in the country…

The value of wholesale trade in Alberta increased in June, increasing by 1.6% to just under $5.0 billion (seasonally adjusted). This increase was the sixth in the last eight months and the strongest among all provinces. The value of wholesale trade in Alberta is now 14.5% above its recession low reached in October 2009. Nationally, wholesale sales declined by 0.3% to $43.9 billion (seasonally adjusted) with the value of wholesale sales increasing in only Alberta (1.6%), Manitoba (0.2%) and Ontario (0.1%) in June.

Employment Insurance

Number of beneficiaries edges up…

The number of employment insurance (EI) beneficiaries in Alberta increased slightly in June, with 310 more people receiving benefits than the previous month. However, since peaking in October 2009, the number of regular EI beneficiaries in Alberta has fallen by 23,340. Nationally, the number of regular EI beneficiaries also increased slightly, up 1.2% in June.

Current Economic Indicators

Population	2008	2009	2010YTD*	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July
Population[1] (000's) (level)	3,596	3,688	3,707	--	--	3,725	--	--	--
% change	2.4	2.6	2.1	--	--	1.6	--	--	--
Net Interprovincial Migraton[1] (level)	15,317	23,006	-6,832	--	--	312	--	--	--
Net International Migration[1] (level)	20,039	20,074	1,477	--	--	6,758	--	--	--
Net Non-permanent Residents[1] (level)	18,536	19,058	-4,332	--	--	48	--	--	--
Labour Market									
Employment (000's)	2,013	1,988	1,987	1,973	1,969	1,979	1,994	2,000	2,009
% change	2.8	-1.3	-0.3	-1.0	-1.0	-0.4	0.3	0.6	1.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.6	6.6	6.9	6.9	7.5	7.4	6.6	6.7	6.3
Participation Rate (%)	74.7	74.3	73.2	73.0	73.2	73.4	73.2	73.3	73.1
Average Weekly Earnings ($)	923.21	950.13	984.20	985.99	993.04	993.17	985.17	--	--
% change	6.0	2.9	3.4	2.1	3.0	6.1	4.4	--	--
Price Indices									
Consumer Price Index NEW!	3.1	-0.1	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.6	1.1	0.6	1.5
Excluding food and energy	2.1	1.4	1.0	1.3	0.8	1.4	0.9	0.7	0.8
Non-Res. Const. Cost Index[2] (quarter) NEW!	13.2	-9.8	-2.3	--	-5.0	--	--	0.6	--
Farm Product Price Index	11.5	-11.3*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Crops	26.7	-22.9*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Livestock	2.1	-0.8*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Household Sector									
Housing Starts (SAAR, 000's)	29.2	20.0	29.0	28.6	34.4	29.5	29.7	27.0	29.2
% change	-39.6	-31.6	50.5	142.4	168.8	128.7	107.7	33.0	50.5
New Housing Price Index	0.7	-9.0	-0.2	-1.4	-0.2	1.0	1.6	1.9	--
Edmonton	1.0	-11.2	-2.2	-3.3	-2.4	-1.0	-0.1	0.6	--
Calgary	0.6	-6.7	1.9	0.4	2.0	2.9	3.1	3.2	--
MLS Average Resale Prices ($ 000's) NEW!	351.4	340.5	351.9	348.2	357.9	359.9	355.5	345.4	352.0
% change	-1.5	-3.1	6.2	5.1	10.3	7.7	7.1	4.0	3.1
Edmonton	330.8	319.1	324.0	327.6	341.4	332.1	317.9	303.9	322.1
% change	-2.0	-3.5	4.2	2.6	11.0	8.7	4.4	2.1	1.5
Calgary	401.1	384.3	400.0	395.1	398.2	401.3	411.5	403.8	404.0
% change	-2.9	-4.2	6.7	5.2	9.0	6.4	9.2	5.8	5.5
Retail Sales[3]	0.2	-8.3	5.2	6.6	11.2	5.3	2.4	--	--
New Motor Vehicle Sales	-7.3	-21.7	9.4	24.0	15.3	6.9	4.7	13.2	--
Consumer Bankruptcies	6,066	9,986	3513	637	776	744	672	--	--
% change	27.2	64.6	-13.0	-9.8	-18.4	-11.2	-20.7	--	--
Business Sector									
Rigs Drilling	236	128	183	339	219	62	56	118	199
% change	-2.1	-45.6	55.2	42.3	103.5	51.9	76.4	99.0	135.5
Goods Exports (customs based)	34.6	-37.3	20.0	19.6	18.5	27.8	50.1	17.7	--
Energy	42.5	-41.4	33.4	36.7	32.8	48.8	82.9	24.4	--
Agriculture	32.0	-10.2	-16.1	-20.1	-9.6	-27.6	-5.0	-9.0	--
Total Farm Cash Receipts (quarterly)	17.2	-8.1	-17.3	--	-17.3	--	--	--	--
Manufacturing Shipments NEW!	7.0	-21.6	8.1	4.3	9.9	12.2	11.9	10.4	--
Wholesale Trade[4] NEW!	8.7	-14.1	-1.5	-12.2	-2.1	6.3	5.5	7.7	--
Building Permits	-16.5	-14.2	25.0	69.1	41.4	28.1	-11.8	31.4	--
Residential	-31.5	-11.8	88.6	172.1	91.3	64.6	90.9	50.6	--
Non-residential	3.7	-16.3	-16.4	4.3	2.0	0.0	-57.7	14.4	--
Business Bankruptcies	447	405	177	30	48	37	35	--	--
% change	-0.4	-9.4	2.9	-31.8	54.8	54.2	2.9	--	--

Government of Alberta ■
Finance and Enterprise

Alberta ■

* YTD – year-to-date represents the change since the beginning of the year compared to the same period in the previous year.

[1] Quarterly; annual numbers are presented on a census year basis (July 1 - June 30).

[2] Average of Calgary and Edmonton

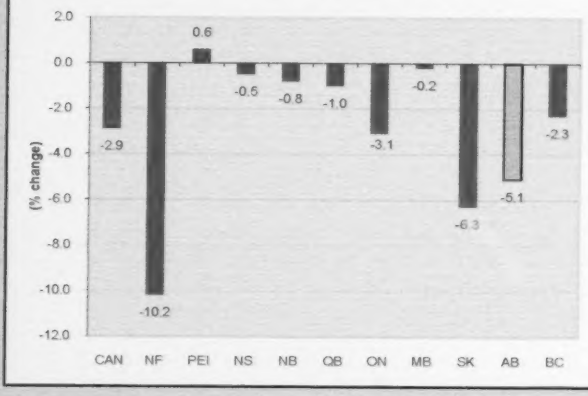
[3] The Retail Sales series was revised on April 23, 2010 and is no longer comparable with numbers in previous Bulletins.

[4] The Wholesale Trade series was revised on April 21, 2010 and is no longer comparable with numbers in previous Bulletins.

Sources: All data is from Statistics Canada except Housing Starts (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), MLS Average Resale Prices (Canadian Real Estate Association), Rigs Drilling (Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors) and Bankruptcies (Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada).

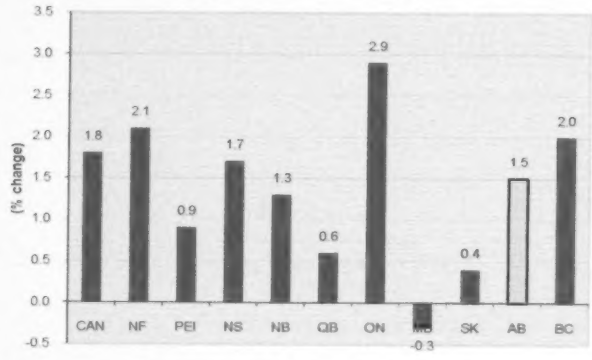
Current Economic Indicators by Province

Real GDP Growth
(2009 year-over-year growth, preliminary estimate)

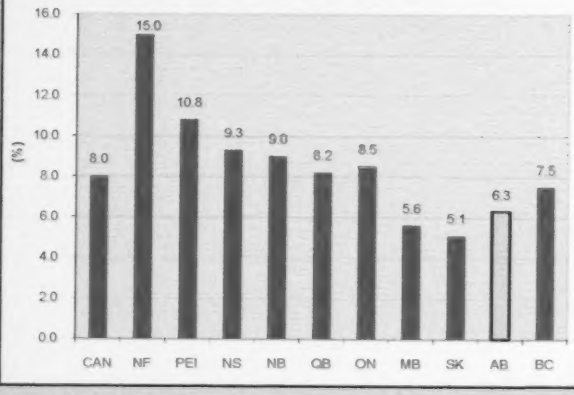


NEW!

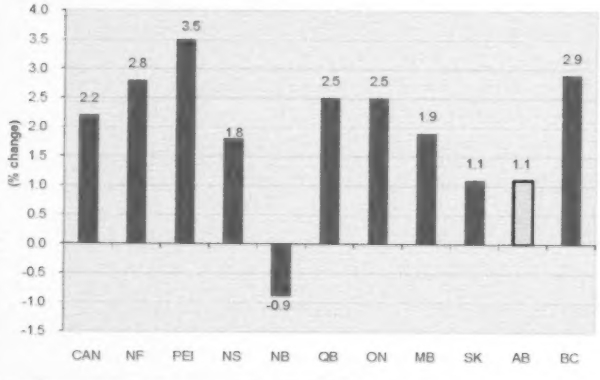
CPI Inflation
(July year-over-year % change)



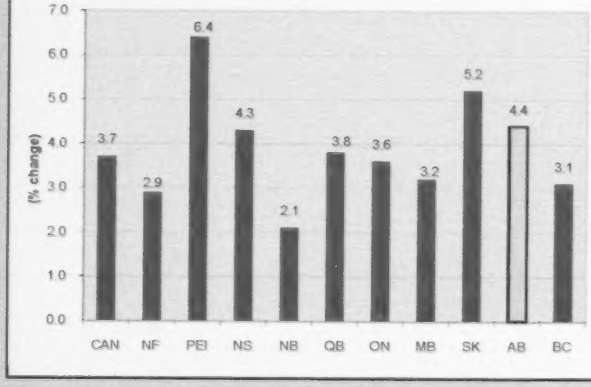
Unemployment Rate
(July 2010, Seasonally Adjusted)



Employment
(July year-over-year growth)



Average Weekly Earnings
(May year-over-year growth)



Housing Starts
(SAAR July 2010)